

2. (Amended) A sheath according to claim 1, characterized in that said diffusion cone is truncated.

3. (Amended) A sheath according to claim 1, characterized in that said diffusion cone has an angle at the apex (α) lying in the range 30° to 45°, and preferably equal to about 45°.

4. (Amended) A sheath according to claim 1, characterized in that said diffusion cone is made of a perforated flexible material, preferably a textile material.

6. (Amended) A sheath according to claim 1, characterized in that said diffusion cone is made of a perforated rigid material.

7. (Amended) A sheath according to claim 4, characterized in that said material constituting the diffusion cone has porosity of about 0.5.

8. (Amended) A sheath according to claim 1, characterized in that said diffusion cone is secured to the end of a sleeve positioned inside said sterile air feed duct on the longitudinal axis x of the sheath and presenting a section that is slightly smaller than that of the sheath.

9. (Amended) A sheath according to claim 8, characterized in that said sleeve is made of a material that is less porous than the material of said diffusion cone.

10. (Amended) A sheath according to claim 8, characterized in that said sleeve is made of a perforated flexible material such as a textile material such that under the action of the sterile air passing through it takes up an oval shape and comes into contact with the inside face of a wall of the sheath.

11. (Amended) A sheath according to claim 8, characterized in that it includes a central branch connection constituted by a sterile air feed duct opening out into said sheath in a direction Y that is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the

sheath such that at the outlet from said sterile air feed duct the sterile air flows in two opposite directions generally along the longitudinal axis x of said sheath, the sheath being provided internally at the outlet from the branch connection with a diffusing sleeve extending along the longitudinal axis x of the sheath and having a diffusion cone at each end, the cones being oriented in the sterile air flow direction and centered on the longitudinal axis x of the sheath.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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